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Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

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* The information contained in the addendum was received after the submission of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Governments in response to resolution 64/49

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[14 October 2010]

1. The exploration of outer space is in the interests of humanity, provided that the purposes thereof are peaceful and that every State, regardless of its standard of economic and scientific development, benefits therefrom.

2. The space race was originally part of the cold war between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. Those two countries competed for control over the most extensive tracts of outer space, using satellites and manned and unmanned spacecraft, in order to demonstrate their respective power and technological capability.

3. Early missile technology and international tensions following the second world war prompted the race to conquer space that was engaged in by the Soviet Union and the United States of America. Those two States subsequently entered into an arms race in outer space which became an ideological, technological and cultural contest during the cold war, and satellites were used as a means of espionage.

4. Certain States that have space-related expertise are making efforts to produce a new and sophisticated generation of nuclear weapons in outer space which include the restructuring and updating of systems for nuclear design laboratories and other missile research. As a result, other equally sophisticated States may feel compelled to compete in the arms race in space and use outer space for military purposes, which will lead to confrontations and tensions that will impact on international peace and security.

5. Some States are attempting to test weapons that are designed to obstruct the operation of satellites. Such weapons form part of an anti-satellite system. The stated aim of those tests is to prevent the proliferation of space weapons and bring pressure to bear on the superpowers to open a dialogue that will prevent an arms race in outer space.

6. All States must therefore work together in exploring outer space and developing the prevailing concept of the earth and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. Human civilization and social development must be supported by means of the following:

(a) Communications technology and space transmissions.

(b) Scientific research and technological testing.

(c) Identification and monitoring of global resources.

(d) Astronautics and the identification of stations; the development of a series of satellites for monitoring environmental changes and natural disasters.

7. All States that have extensive space-related capacities bear a particular responsibility for making an effective contribution to achieving the goal of using

outer space for peaceful purposes and preventing an arms race. The security of space activities and the preservation of space are of the utmost priority.

8. Jordan believes that the negotiations over the conclusion of an international instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space are a priority for the United Nations.

9. Outer space, including the stars and galaxies, is the common heritage of mankind which must be preserved by all. Many vital earth-based activities are linked to outer space through communications that have an impact on economic operations, shipping and even politics, given that the adoption of strategic decisions depends on sophisticated technology in outer space. It is therefore essential to endeavour to ensure that space is used only for peaceful purposes.